

3.3.11

Public Safety and Security Committee Testimony by

E. Jonathan Hardy
Middletown, CT
National Rifle Association (NRA) Certified Firearms Safety Instructor

I support the following bills:

H.B. 6377 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS PREEMPTION

Preemption has the ability to free up misconceptions at the local level and even the terrain for law abiding firearms owners and law enforcement. There has been talk about certain laws being "vague". There is no vagueness about CT firearms laws, just selective prosecution.

There are two towns that I know of that have their own ordinances that claim they supersede state law. New Britain and New London both have ordinances that state that it does not matter if you are a legal firearms permit holder or not. If you carry, you're not allowed in "our town" and you will be fined.

Clearly, this legislation would clear up similar issues and make sure we don't burden the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners with unnecessary hearings and expense.

S.B. 967 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR A REVOLVER

I have to deal with temporary permit issues as an instructor. It is my job to explain the process to prospective permit applicants and help them with the process.

SEVERAL towns do not follow CT Statutes regarding the issuance of temporary pistol permits.

I have had dealings with citizens in over a dozen towns just this past year. Many towns take the state requirements and further ask for unnecessary information like credit checks, neighbor interviews and letters of reference. All of which are clearly moot.

An applicant can get friends to write letters.

It isn't right for a neighbor to be able to block your permit process because of a firearms bias.

Credit checks have no bearing on one's ability to safely handle a firearm. There are no studies (and I've searched high and low) that link bad credit with firearms safety, especially in this economy.

Enacting this law will be a start in correcting a huge burden in the permitting process.

H.B. 6376 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT OF A BOOK RECORDING EACH SALE OF A PISTOL OR REVOLVER

This legislation would simply clear up the insanity of paperwork kept on the transfer of firearms. Paperwork that is required by the state is filled out, submitted and clearly should be enough to transfer a pistol or revolver. Support of this legislation would create a simple standard across the board.

S.B. 966 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS TO SELL FIREARMS

This bill simply clears up any issues when selling firearms at clubs or shows. It would be nice to have one standard for transactions at these events. This is a small modification to already existing legislation contained in 29-31.

It's a pleasure to testify in support of all these bills and I am available for any future discussion or clarifications.

My email address is jonathan@ctgunsafety.com